

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
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P R 170810Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9921
INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

UNCLAS BELGRADE 1609

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR YO US
SUBJ: US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS

1. ONLY YUGOSLAV REACTION TO DATE TO FORMER AMBASSADOR
SILBERMAN'S ARTICLE IS PIECE IN "POLITIKA" MAR 16. COMPLETE
TEXT FOLLOWS.

QUOTE: YUGOSLAV-AMERICAN RELATIONS

THE STATE DEPARTMENT DISSOCIATES ITSELF FROM AN ATTACK
AGAINST RHE SRFY CARRIED OUT IN AN ARTICLE BY THE FORMER
US AMBASSADOR IN BELGRADE SILBERMAN
(POLITIKA, WEDNESDAY, MAR 16, 1977, P. 3, C. 1
NEW YORK, MARCH 15 - RUMOURS TO THE EFFECT THAT LAURENCE
SILBERMAN, WHO, AS USUAL PRACTICES REQUIRE, SUBMITTED HIS
RESIGNATION FROM THE POST OF US AMBASSADOR IN BELGRADE AFTER
THE AMERICAN ELECTIONS, IS PREPARING AN EXTENSIVE "ATTACK"
AGAINST THE OFFICIAL AMERICAN POLICY TOWARDS YUGOSLAVIA SO
FAR, HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING IN THE AMERICAN CAPITAL CITY FOR
WEEKS NOW. IN ITS TALKS WITH YUGOSLAV CORRESPONDENTS
THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN DISSOCIATING ITSELF IN
ADVANCE FROM THE FORMER AMBASSADOR AND HIS DEFENSE OF
"ACTIVE PRESSURE" ON BELGRADE.

LAURENCE SILBERMAN'S ATTACK HAS JUST APPEARED IN THE
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MAGAZINE "FOREIGN POLICY", WHICH SHOULD NOT BE MIXED UP
WITH STILL BETTER KNOWN MAGAZINE "FOREIGN AFFAIRS". IN
HIS EXTENSIVE ARTICLE, THE FORMER AMBASSADOR CTICICIZES
THE ENTIRE AMERICAN POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP WITH OUR COUNTRY,
CRITICIZING IT FOR TAKING AS ITS POINT OF DEPARTURE ONLY
(THE FACT THAT) THE INDEPENDENCE OF OUR OWN COUNTRY IS ALSO
IN THE INTEREST OF AMERICA, AND THEREFORE OVERLOOKING

THE FACT THAT YUGOSLAVIA AS ONE OF THE KEY COUNTRIES OF THE NONALIGNED WORLD IS VIOLATING THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES "THROUGHOUT THE WORLD", AND FAILING TO ASK FROM YUGOSLAVIA "RECIPROCITY" FOR "SERVICES". BEING BASED ON A WHOLE SERIES OF UNTRUTHS ABOUT THE REAL STAND-POINT OF YUGOSLAVIA AMONG THE CIRCLES OF THE NONALIGNED WHEN THE UNITED STATES IS IN QUESTION, SILBERMAN'S THESIS TENDS TOWARD THE CONCLUSION THAT AMERICA SHOULD NOT OFFER TO BELGRADE "THE OTHER CHEEK AS WELL" WHEN IT GETS A "SLAP", AND THAT THE POLICY TOWARDS YUGOSLAVIA SHOULD, WHEN NECESSARY, BE EVEN SHARPENED. (THE IMPRESSION) GAINED FROM THE WHOLE ARTICLE IS THAT IT IS LEVELLED, NOT ONLY AGAINST THE YUGOSLAV POLICY OF NONALIGNMENT -- WHICH SEEMS TO HIM MORE IMPORTANT THAN A DISCUSSION ABOUT YUGOSLAV-SOVIET RELATIONS -- BUT ALSO AGAINST THOSE AMONG THE UPPER ECHELONS OF AMERICAN POLICY AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT WHO THINK DIFFERENTLY FROM HIM.

IT IS PERHAPS NOT ACCIDENTAL THAT IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS ASKED BY CORRESPONDENTS TODAY THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD A SUBSTANTIAL ANSWER PREPARED IN ADVANCE AND THAT IT DID NOT APPLY THE FREQUENT PRACTICE OF REPLYING THAT IT WAS "NOT DEALING WITH WRITINGS IN THE PRESS". IN THE STATEMENT BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT, IT IS SAID: "THE POLICY OF THIS ADMINISTRATION TOWARDS YUGOSLAVIA IS CLEAR. AS IN RELATIONS WITH MANY OTHER COUNTRIES, OUR RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA ARE A COMPLEX MIXTURE OF COMMON AND OPPOSITE INTERESTS AND VALUES. THE UNITED STATES HAS AN ESSENTIAL INTEREST IN THE CONTINUATION OF THE

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INDEPENDENCE, UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF YUGOSLAVIA. THIS IS THE POLICY THAT HAS BEEN PURSUED BY ALL ADMINISTRATIONS, IRRESPECTIVE OF POLITICAL PARTIES, RANGING FROM HARRY TRUMAN ONWARDS, AND A POLICY WHICH THIS ADMINISTRATION WILL CONTINUE TO CARRY OUT. WHEN OUR POSITIONS COME TO DIFFER FROM EACH OTHER, THIS ADMINISTRATION WILL NOT HESITATE TO PURSUE THE AMERICAN INTERESTS IN CONNECTIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA IN AN EQUALLY ENERGETIC WAY AS WHEN OTHER COUNTRIES ARE IN QUESTION. WE SHALL ENDEAVOR TO INCREASE THE SPHERES OF COMMON INTERESTS; AND WE ARE ESPECIALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO A MORE INTENSIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF YUGOSLAVIA ON POINTS SUCH AS THE CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN SECURITY AND COOPERATION, DISARMAMENT, AND THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH, IN CONNECTION WITH WHICH YUGOSLAVIA IS PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE".

THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN MADE IT KNOWN VERBALLY

THAT AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN WAS ONLY ADVOCATING HIS OWN
PRIVATE VIEWS.
J. GUSTINCIC.
END QUOTE.
YORK

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NNN

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